

Special Services

New Members' Shabbat

A special Friday night service on February 10 at 8:15pm will honor all people who became members of Sha'ar Zahav in 1988.

Healing Service

Our series of Shabbat afternoon services, *Liturgy for Healing*, continues to meet on the second Saturday of each month at 4 pm. These services are a quiet, reflective opportunity to deepen our spiritual lives, pray as a community, share personal concerns in a supportive environment and experience healing as we personally understand it.

Special music and text are included in the service to help us focus on spiritual strength and healing. The afternoon concludes with Havdalah and a potluck nosh. The service is open to everyone, including those experiencing illness, loss, caregivers, and those wanting spiritual renewal.

Our next service is on Saturday, February 11 at 4 pm in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact David Glassberg (621-4371) or the synagogue office.

A Musical Shabbat

Rabbi Charisse Kranes will join Rabbi Kahn on the *bimah* at Shabbat services on Friday, February 24 for a special musical service. Trained as a cantor, Rabbi Kranes will sing music by the contemporary Jewish composer, Bonia Shur. Shur's music, according to Kranes, "combines the authenticity of its Jewish roots with a reflection of who we are today. This music can open the door to a renewed spiritual vigor." This promises to be a uniquely moving and memorable evening, so please join us.



Bikkur Cholim member Sen Talley serves pineapple. Please note the Bikkur Cholim Questionnaire in this month's issue. Photo by Amy Blasenheim.

Ronnie Gilbert To Sing For Sha'ar Zahav

In the 1950s, her rich, joyous contralto and vibrant personality were an important part of the celebrated singing group the Weavers. Ronnie Gilbert, along with Pete Seeger, Lee Hayes and Fred Hellerman, made folk music history with hits like *Goodnight Irene*, *Tzena Tzena* and *Kisses Sweeter Than Wine*. Their phenomenal success was cut short at the peak of their fame when, in the hysteria of the McCarthy era, the Weavers were blacklisted from the world of mainstream music and branded subversives for their outspoken support of progressive causes. Denied access to radio and television, the group found a smaller but devoted and eager audience in colleges and concert halls around the country and continued to sing for several years before they disbanded. Ronnie went on to the world of theater, appearing in a variety of off-Broadway productions, later returning to singing with the Weavers' famous reunion concert in Carnegie Hall. Her voice is powerful, but also whimsical, the humor and warmth of

her personality shining through when she performs.

Until recently, Ronnie was perhaps best known for her work with the Weavers, who virtually invented the folk pop genre later picked up by the Kingston Trio and Peter, Paul and Mary. More recently, however, she has become equally well known for her work with feminist singer and songwriter Holly Near. Songs like *Mothers, Daughters, Wives*, an indictment of the compliance with which sons and fathers are sent off to war, and the amusing *Hand Me Down My Jogging Shoes*, a satirical look at chic athletes, are typical of her new repertoire, which still includes some of the favorites made famous by the Weavers.

All very well and good, you say, but what does it have to do with Sha'ar Zahav? The answer is simple: Ronnie will be performing at a concert sponsored by CSZ on May 13 at the First Congregational Church in San Francisco. That may seem far away right

Continued on page 5

President's Column: State of the Union

Since inauguration day recently passed, I thought I'd give a Sha'ar Zahav "State of the Union."

Va'ad: Astute readers of the JGF may have noticed that the listing for officers and Va'ad members has changed a few times this year. We're on our third recorder, and have had to fill a couple of Va'ad vacancies. But we're settled in now and should finish the year with our current board. Despite the changes, we've thus far had a productive and enjoyable year. We meet the second Monday of the month; meetings are open to all members and I encourage anyone curious about the inner workings of the congregation to attend. Meetings last between 90 minutes and three hours, though lately (thankfully!) they've been on the shorter side.

Committees: We are a congregation with 25 committees and chavurot. Only four have limited membership; Liaison, Long-Range Planning and Personnel are Va'ad appointed, and the Past Presidents Council is self-defined. All others, however, would love to have more members. Here's some information about each. I encourage everyone to join one; it's the way to meet people and get involved. Speak to me or the chair for more information. (Chairs are listed on page 9.)

- **Bikkur Cholim** offers support to the ill and mourning, visits nursing homes during holidays, conducts Shabbat services at the Jewish Home for the Aged, holds a monthly AIDS brunch at Kaiser Hospital and takes the baskets to the AIDS Food Bank.

- **Brotherhood**, a social group for men, has been unchained and inactive all year.

- **Building** maintains our synagogue, proposes plans for building changes and recommends policies for building use. They've had an active year; our growth puts wear and tear on our building.

- **Bylaws** recommends changes to our bylaws. The committee has just reconvened to do some "house cleaning."

- **Cemetery** members are planning, with Rabbi Kahn, a dedication ceremony, and writing a brochure describing our cemetery program.

- **Children's Chavurah** members hold programs geared toward the children and their families, but all programs are open to all members. They're espe-

cially interested in having more men join them.

- **Cookbook** project members promote and sell the nearly 5000 copies of *Out of Our Kitchen Closets: San Francisco Gay Jewish Cooking*.

- **Dinner Chavurah** will provide members with an opportunity to dine with a different group each month.

- **Education** plans our adult education classes and programs. Although they've had a busy year, they're currently unchained. Anyone interested should speak up.

- **Finance** plans and oversees our budget. It's time to plan for next year; anyone want to help?

- **Israel Chavurah** plans to offer Israeli cultural programming, serve as liaison to gay and lesbian Israelis in the Bay Area, hold forums to discuss current events in Israel, and bring secular Israeli observances to CSZ.

- **Membership** processes membership applications, develops orientation programs for new members and staffs information tables at synagogue and outside events.

- **Newsletter** publishes our world-renowned newsletter. They can always use a few preafrooders.

- **Oneg** has a new chair, Susan Stahl, who needs help in setting up our onegs. It takes about an hour each week. We all like to eat and schmooze; let's not leave the responsibility to just a few people.

- **Public Relations** presents us to the outside world. They're working hard with the cookbook and Ronnie Gilbert concert (see below). Sharyn has been chair or co-chair since the beginning of time and could use a break.

- **Religious School** oversees the education of our youngest members.

- **Ritual** plans and leads services, and develops liturgy.

- **Social Action** is active in the sanctuary movement and other causes working to eliminate social injustice. This year they've held an AIDS activism forum and led the congregation's No on 96 and 102 positions.

- **Social Program** has been unchained this year, although individuals have chaired our major programs of the year (Chanukah and Purim). Anyone wanting to chair Social Program should call me immediately (even if it's 3 am).

- **Spirituality Chavurah** will explore

prayer, Jewish practice, meditation and ritual as routes to deepening one's own Jewish spirituality and observance.

- **Women's Chavurah** has had an active and successful year (theater parties, dance, blood drive, games night) and plans to continue for the rest of the year.

Upcoming projects: In addition to our committee work, we have three major projects coming up this spring: Purim in March, Pesach in April, and a Ronnie Gilbert concert in May. All three need people. Contact me if you'd like to work on Purim. Contact Shirley Liberman to help on Pesach, and Tiela Chalmers to work on the Ronnie Gilbert concert.

Our congregation's vibrancy depends on the work of our members. Let's all get involved.

—Robin Leonard

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alita Rosenfeld & Howard Blechman, co-chairs, Stephanie Hannaford, Henry Mach, and Leonard Brill (general editorial and production), Amy Blasenheim (photos), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Frank Hyman, Alex Ingersoll, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Pagesetter Typography and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Latke Luau Thank-Yous

Being a neophyte at planning parties for the masses, I was a bit intimidated when I was asked to chair the 1988 Chanukah party. But I soon found out that there was really nothing to worry about because of the generous outpouring of help from so many people, within both CSZ and the community, that made this party a success.

Eric Keitel and Robin Leonard did stupendous jobs in all of the myriad tasks they took on. It wouldn't have happened without them. Mark Freeman put together and ran the children's program that got rave reviews from adults and kids alike. George Lucas once again coordinated the production of our delicious latkes. Randy Schiller, always so generous with his time, expertise and equipment, provided us with fine music for dancing. Steve Ellman made the door run very smoothly, and Don Albert made sure that the Silent Auction was bigger and better than ever. New members Nancy-Carol Adler and Mark Mencher jumped right in, helping us find volunteers for the day of the event, making latkes, picking out and putting up decorations, and just general schlepping.

I'd also like to thank the following people who helped with this and that and the other thing: Aaron Cooper, Ralph Frischman, Tom Rothgeisser, Lee Huth, David Stein, Alex Ingersoll, Jenny Helbraun, Jane Graeven, Larry Wexler, Jonathan Messinger, Scott Mezistrano, Susan Stall, Neal Hart, Isha Mayim, Merry Luskin, Karen Commanday, Jan Harband, Mark Mendelow, Brett Truman, Beth Berkelhamer, Martha Zimet, Tom Holt, Steve Polsky, Sharyn Saslafsky, Ida Kuluk, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, the members of the Ensemble (whose grass skirts were very cute!), Shirley Liberman, Frank Hyman, Howard Bobren, Sanford Friedman, Arthur Seidman, Meira, Lenore Cohen, Francie Hornstein and sons, and Gordon Osser. Thank you all—and everyone who I accidentally overlooked—we couldn't have done it without you.

Finally, I'd like to thank the businesses who generously donated to our raffle—Seth Lawrence of Global Travel, Macy's California, Friedman's Microwave Ovens, Cliff's Variety, Double Rainbow Ice Cream on Castro, A Different Light Bookstore, and David Gellman, Esq., as

well as all of the generous donors to our Silent Auction (who will be thanked by letter). And, last but not least, thank you to Olivia Nofte of Telegraph Travel for providing us with the beautiful posters of Hawaii. Aloha!

—Allyce Kimerling
Latke Luau Chair

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Movie Review: Talk Radio

The subject of *Talk Radio* is a Dallas radio talk-show host who is angry, outrageous, and Jewish. Night after night he engages with the bigotry and depravity of his callers, who include outright neo-Nazis. Throughout, there is a sense of ominous fascination, as he heaps an odd mixture of scorn, political idealism, and humanitarian love on his listeners, under the watchful eye of his network bosses.

The character felt familiar to me and reminded me so much of the East Coast Jewish world—obnoxious, full of himself, yet funny and with a subtle quality of love for those he belittles. But his fatal flaw is that he is addicted to contact with the things he loathes and fights. The film reminded me of *Boys in the Band*, with its slowly building intensity, swift changes from vituperation to tenderness, and undertone of self-hatred. *Talk Radio* is a valuable reminder of the hatred and anti-Semitism that quietly lives around us and in our own souls.

—Merry Luskin

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Classified Ads

ROOMMATE OPPORTUNITY: Sunny 2-room suite in spacious Haight-Ashbury Edwardian flat available now. \$475 per month. Jonathan Schwartz, 552-1960.

ARE YOU READY for a refreshing break? Sue specializes in Massage to Music for Women. Soothing music. Beautiful massage room. Quiet location. Affordable rates. Use massage to release stress, assist your recovery from life's struggles, and celebrate your successes. Make an appointment for a relaxing, attentive massage. Certified Massage Practitioner. Sue 527-1773.

ARABIA DISHES: Black and midnight blue circular pattern. Serves 12, plus sugar, creamer, trivet. Gorgeous. Unused. Original packing. \$1,400. 587-7210.

Building Healthy Relationships

Have I got a nice (Jewish) boy or girl for you!

Have you heard it before? Would you like to hear it now? Does the idea send shivers through your spine? Or does it warm your heart?

Susan Strong and Michael Bettinger, members of the congregation who professionally counsel lesbian and gay male couples, will lead a discussion on building healthy lesbian and gay relationships. Those of you who are in relationships or want to be in relationships or want to get out of one are invited to attend on Sunday, February 12, at noon.

There is more to building a healthy relationship than moving in and living "happily ever after." The talk will focus on warning signs of unhealthy relationships, building healthy relationships, and the roles our families of origin play in our present relationships.

Michael and Susan are both graduates of the California Graduate School of Marital and Family Therapy and have helped to bridge the theory of family functioning with the reality of lesbian and gay life. If you would like to spend some time looking at your own ideas and feelings regarding relationships as well as hearing from others, join us!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Anniversaries

- 10 Robert Nacamulli & Lorraine Locke-Nacamulli
- 14 Joan Lefkowitz & Stacey Shuster
- 14 Sharone Abramowitz & Nadine Rosenthal
- 23 Yael Silverberg-Willis & Luana Willis

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Thank You

Dear Friends:

Aaron and I would like to thank everyone who has been there for us in our time of need. It is difficult to lose a parent or any loved one, and the love and support we have received from our friends in the congregation has been a real source of strength for us through this period.

With love,

Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper

More Than Just Visiting the Sick

"Follow Adonai your God" (Deuteronomy 13:5). What does this mean? Is it possible for a mortal to follow God's Presence? The verse means to teach us that we should follow the attributes of the Holy One, blessed be The Name. As Adonai clothes the naked, you should clothe the naked. The Bible teaches that the Holy One visited the sick; you should visit the sick. The Holy One comforted those who mourned; you should comfort those who mourn. The Holy One buried the dead; you should bury the dead.

Two years ago, our Bikkur Cholim Committee asked members of the congregation to fill out a questionnaire in order to help the committee match people in need with others who could help. Many of you responded. While not everyone who filled out the questionnaire at that time has been called upon, it has been reassuring to know that so many people are ready and available to help in time of need. Because so many new members have joined the congregation and others have moved, changed work hours, etc., we are sending out a new Bikkur Cholim questionnaire in this issue of the *Forward*.

Bikkur cholim means "visiting the sick." At Sha'ar Zahav, our *bikkur cholim* mitzvot assume many different forms: providing rides to the doctor for someone who is ill, delivering a meal or helping with tasks during convalescence, visiting people who are in the hospital or shut in, participating in a *minyan* during *shiva* as an expression of communal support.

This survey asks where you live, what mitzvot you are willing to do and how often we can call upon you. After you return the survey, the committee may not contact you for a while; but please do not consider your readiness to serve as pointless! The wider the pool of volunteers, the more likely that in the time of need we will be able to provide the needed service.

At Sha'ar Zahav, we work at building a caring community. Even though our members do not all live in the same neighborhood or city, we are connected to each other, through bonds of history, commitment and caring. When we do an act of *bikkur cholim*, we affirm and give life to the sentiments we express in our prayers and texts. We truly can bring

healing by relieving a person of worrying about how basic needs will be met during a time of illness. As we continue to live with this epidemic, many members of our congregation will continue to be primary care providers and others will become ill themselves. In addition to HIV, we have members of our community who are living with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. We can support our members, our community and our hard-pressed community agencies through our *bikkur cholim* efforts at CSZ.

Our caring community is "empowered" through the devoted efforts of so many of you, but we can only be of assistance if we know about the need. If you are going to be in the hospital, or suddenly find yourself there, or hear of another member of the congregation who is ill, please call the synagogue office and let me know. If there is a death in the family of a synagogue member, please inform the synagogue office. The Bikkur Cholim Committee and I want to be in touch and, when appropriate, visit or otherwise be of assistance.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

Goal-oriented, down-to-earth counseling in the here and now for the individual or couple wishing to work on issues of life's frustrations and transitions, relationships, illness and injury. By appointment.

Carol Fiul, M.A. (IH 11341)

(415) 921-7918

Tuesday Spring Line-Up

The Education Committee is pleased to announce two new classes for this spring. "Prayerbook Hebrew" is a class for anyone who can read the alphabet and has always wanted to know what it means. This two-part, 12-class series will concentrate on the prayers and passages in our liturgy. Rabbi Yoel Kahn will be teaching from the textbook *Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way* and lessons will include plenty of games, music and laughter to help make your learning fun! The first part (six classes) begins on March 7 and runs until April 11. The second part (another six classes) begins on May 2 and runs through June 6. Classes are from 7:30 to 8:30 pm and are free to members, \$30 per part for non-members.

The second class, "Symbols and Themes of the Kabbalah," will discuss Kabbalah and how it reflects Jewish ideas of exile, teshuvah and redemption, as well as the use and meaning of Kabbalistic symbols in our contemporary Jewish lives. These classes begin on Tuesday, March 7 and will run through March 28 from 8:35 to 9:35 pm. The class is free for members and \$15 for non-members. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

To enroll in any of these classes, please sign up by calling the synagogue office. Additional spring classes will be announced in next month's *Forward*.

The Education Committee hopes to see all of you at these interesting and educational classes.

ATTORNEY

DAVID R. GELLMAN
Goldstein & Gellman
(415) 621-2966

- Contracts & Leases
- Estate Planning & Wills

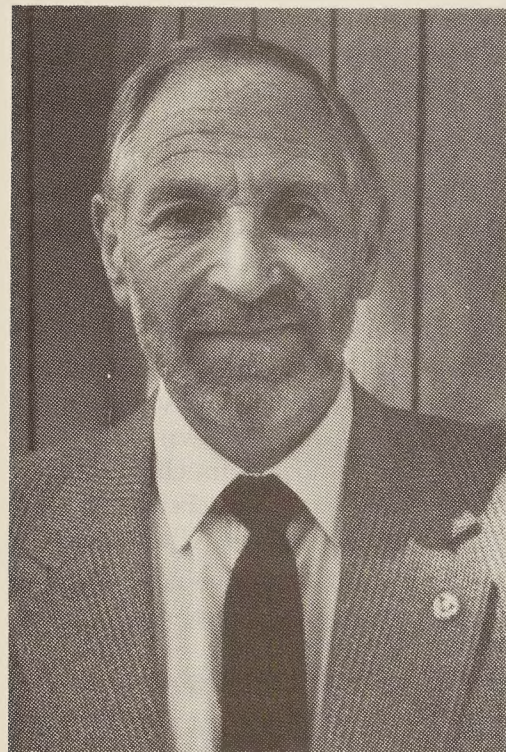
- Real Estate
- Business Law & Litigation

Evening &
Weekend
Appointments

1540 Market St
Suite 490
San Francisco

Jews and Christians in Dialogue

The members of Sha'ar Zahav and the Metropolitan Community Church/San Francisco (MCC/SF) will come together for study and fellowship in a three-part adult-education series exploring the common roots and diverse histories of our religious traditions. The Wednesday evening programs will meet alternately at MCC and Sha'ar Zahav. Each evening will begin with music followed by a presentation, discussion and coffee hour. This series is free and open to all.



Dr. Sanford Lowe, the featured speaker for these sessions, is professor of humanities and religious studies at Santa Rosa Junior College. He received his doctor of ministry from the Graduate Theological Union and his rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion. Last spring, he received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from HUC-JIR. A dynamic and interesting speaker, Dr. Lowe speaks widely on Jewish-Christian relations, the Holocaust and the study of religion and is a member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

On February 15, beginning at 7:45 pm at MCC, Dr. Lowe will speak on "The Roots of Anti-Semitism," examining the history and texts of emerging Christianity and rabbinic Judaism during the first century of the Common Era and their influence on subsequent generations.

On February 22, at 7:45 at Sha'ar Zahav, Dr. Lowe will explore "Jesus the Jew and Jesus in History," identifying some outstanding characteristics of the historical Jesus and comparing them with Jesus as known through the centuries.

The third session, on March 1 at 7:45 at MCC, will be an opportunity for members of our two faith communities to meet in small groups for dialogue and reflection. Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Rev. Jim Mitulski will facilitate this evening.

For more information call CSZ or MCC offices.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members and friends in January. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Lori Ubell and her son Ethan

Lee Morrow

Pamela Miller and her son Zachary

Lynn Bravewomon

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Naches

To **Tiela Chalmers, Ora Prochovnick** and **Sunny Schwartz** who were all named Volunteers of the Year by the Bar Association of San Francisco.

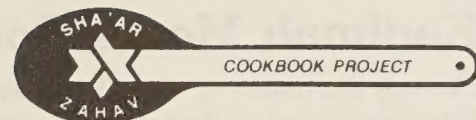
To **Russell Kassman** who was recently appointed to Mayor Agnos' Small Business Advisory Commission.

To **Jeffrey Davidson** on gaining his United States citizenship.

Ronnie Gilbert

(Continued from page 1)

now, but we wanted you to mark those calendars early! Ronnie's concerts are inspiring, funny, and full of hope, and you are sure to have a great time.



Cookbooks Reheat

The second printing of CSZ's cookbook, *Out of Our Kitchen Closets*, has arrived. Our best-selling cookbook is on sale nationally in bookstores around the Bay Area, and at the synagogue, where cookbooks are available for purchase before services on the second and fourth Fridays of the month.

The Cookbook Project is seeking members to help oversee the sale and distribution of this new printing. (Honest, folks, no monthly meetings!) If you are interested in helping, please contact Sanford Friedman at 431-4113.

Oneg Sponsors

During December onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 9 Margaret Rossoff and Jeanette Nichols, in honor of Max Rossoff Nichols' naming ceremony.
- 16 Lesley and Elena Sternin-Moser, in honor of the births of Joshua and Rachel.
- 23 Marsha and Blanche Blachman, in memory of their father, Ben Blachman.
- 30 Eli Weinstein, for those who didn't go skiing.

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Office Notes

Office hours will be changing again in early February. Please watch the sign posted on the office door and the blue announcement sheet at Friday night services for the new hours.

At long last, CSZ's Social Membership Roster is ready. This roster is available to members in good standing for \$3. Please send your check to the CSZ office.

Kadimah Moves Forward

A lively discussion of "The December Dilemma" kicked off the holiday season for Kadimah parents and friends. Presentations were made by Bob Nacamulli, Sue Saperstein and a representative from the UAHC Outreach Committee. Topics included our childhood experiences of Chanukah, celebrating Chanukah amidst Christmas, and holiday celebrations in bi-religious homes. Provocative exchanges provided participants with new insights as the holidays approached.

The traditional Chanukah play was taken several steps further, Sha'ar Zahav style, as students, parents, teachers and the rabbi re-enacted the Chanukah story. The children, along with some adults, were the Jews. When they refused to bow down to the king's statue, they were chased out of the synagogue and around the block, up into the hills, by the sword-wielding parents playing the roles of Syrian soldiers.

The children sneaked upstairs where they made shields depicting different things that made them strong—their names, family, favorite Jewish holiday and favorite activity. Well-protected with the shields, the children swooped back down to fight off the soldiers and chase them out of the sanctuary. Meanwhile, the parents had turned the sanctuary upside-down. The children cleaned and rededicated the sanctuary. Peace was declared and an oneg and Chanukah songs were shared by all.

Kadimah students have been busy and the Bet class (grades 2-3) will be extended to two hours beginning in January. The children have been creating symbols of Jewish life, including mezuzot, Shabbat candles and challah covers. They have been learning the

aleph-bet for Hebrew reading readiness. The Shabbat morning service, including Torah study, is a cornerstone of the Kadimah program. Recently, the musical talents of Nancy Snow have been a delightful addition to the Kadimah Shabbat service.

If you have talents, time or resources to share with our children, please call Ida Kuluk at 531-6179.

Fireside Chat, Part III

Something on your mind you want to discuss with the president and vice president? Well, here's your chance. On Sunday, February 5, from 3 to 5 pm, Eric and I will host our third fireside chat. (My fireplace was recently cleaned out, and thus I promise to have an actual fire burning.) Bring questions, compliments, suggestions, gripes or topics for discussion. We'll supply coffee, tea and noshes.

This chat will be at my home, 346 Euclid Ave., in San Francisco. Euclid is one block south of California Street, running between Masonic and Arguello. (It's not far from the JCC.) If you need more specific directions, call me at 386-7876. Oh—and I boast one thing very few San Franciscans can boast—there's plenty of street parking in my neighborhood.

See you on the fifth.

—Robin Leonard

Sibling Notes

Ahavat Shalom (San Francisco)—is planning a men's retreat for February 17-19 at Sea Ranch in Sonoma County. Men wishing to help plan it or attend should call David Lourea at (415) 626-9637.

Beth Ahavah (Philadelphia)—collected an entire car trunk and back seat of clothing at their Chanukah party to donate to the Philadelphia Family Jewish Services agency to be distributed to people with AIDS.

Bet Haverim (Atlanta)—is staffing a homeless shelter four times during this winter. The responsibilities include overnight supervision, and preparing and serving food. They also voted at their last congregational meeting to affiliate with the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot. They're the first gay and lesbian congregation to join the FRCH and we wish them luck.

Beth Chayim Chadashim (Los Angeles)—will feature Lynn Lavner (one of our favorites) and their own cantor Don Alan Croll (who has much Broadway experience) in concert on February 5 at 8 pm at the Wilshire Ebell Clubhouse.

Chevrei Tikva (Cleveland)—held a potluck Tu B'Shevat Seder on January 20, coordinated by their social, educational and ritual committees.

Chutzpah (Toronto)—is holding their second annual Sheldon Ross Memorial Symposium February 17-19. Our own Rabbi Kahn will deliver the keynote address, "A Jewish Response to AIDS," at the Shabbat service. Rabbi Kahn will also address Chutzpah on the issue of the role of lesbians and gays in the Jewish community at large.

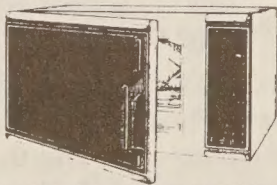
Tikvah Chadash (Seattle)—hosted an evening with a professional Yiddish storyteller on January 27.

Or Chadash (Chicago)—*Mazel tov* to one of our more "seasoned" siblings! Or Chadash will celebrate its Bar/Bat Mitzvah anniversary on February 4, with a dinner (and its annual meeting) at Chicago's only gourmet Polish restaurant, Mareva's.

Yachad (South Africa)—celebrated Chanukah with salads, wine, cold drinks, puddings, dancing and swimming. (Yes, they are in the southern hemisphere.)

MICROWAVE OVENS ONLY

• AMANA • LITTON • PANASONIC • SHARP • TAPPAN • TOSHIBA • GE • QUASAR • SANYO



NOBODY TAKES CARE OF YOU LIKE

FRIEDMANS

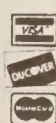
THE MICROWAVE SPECIALISTS

GET THE FRIEDMANS ADVANTAGE!

- FREE LIFETIME COOKING CLASSES
- FREE 60 DAY EXCHANGE
- 100 OVENS ON DISPLAY
- COOKWARE & ACCESSORY DISCOUNTS
- SERVICE HANDLED THROUGH US

OVER 100 STORES NATIONWIDE!

- CALL FOR SUNDAY & EVENING HOURS
- FINANCING AVAILABLE
- RENTAL OVENS
- LOANERS AVAILABLE
- TRADE-INS ACCEPTED



SAN FRANCISCO

5509 GEARY
at 19th AVE.

2057 MARKET
OPPOSITE SAFEWAY

SO. S.F.

2223 GELLERT
NEAR K-MART/BEST

221-0888 431-5550 878-8700

A Lesson of Two Sundays

On Sunday, December 11, I attended a dinner in Los Angeles in honor of Judge Jerry Kreiger and Rabbi Janet Marder, given by our sibling congregation, Beth Chayim Chadishim. It was a joyous event for the congregation is enormously proud of Jerry, a founder of BCC and one of the first openly gay attorneys elected to a judgeship anywhere in the United States.

And Janet touched the lives of so many of her congregants (and many of us non-congregants) when she was rabbi of BCC. It wasn't surprising that the room was packed with several hundred people, both gay and non-gay, among them rabbis and cantors, and leaders of the Reform movement.

In her "acceptance" speech, Rabbi Janet was warm, gracious and witty, as always. She concluded her brief remarks by telling us that the letter "R" has great Kabbalistic significance. "We are aware of this especially tonight," she said, "because we are in the presence of Rabbi Lennard R. Thal, director of the Pacific Southwest Council of the UAHC; Mr. Edward R. London, president of the council; and of course, Adonai *Our* God!"

For this outrageous pun, she was placed on a chair and lifted high into the air by four strapping and well-fed former congregants while we formed a great circle around her, singing, laughing, and dancing a hora! That moment had to be one of the highlights of Janet's rabbinic career.

The following Sunday I attended another celebration of the spirit, but a far different kind, one tinged with sadness and pain. In November, Archbishop Quinn informed members of Dignity, the community of lesbian and gay Catholics, that they could no longer celebrate mass in any church in the archdiocese. Gay and lesbian Catholics are welcome to attend mass as individuals in any church, but not as a community of lesbian and gay believers.

The Pope recently reaffirmed the church's teaching on homosexuality, that homosexual acts are intrinsically immoral and sinful. The archbishop's position is that allowing the Dignity masses would undermine that teaching, and would give apparent sanction to homosexuality. All pleas to reconsider were rejected, and the Dignity chapter

was told that the December 18 mass would be their last.

On the early evening of December 18, members of Dignity and many of their Protestant and Jewish friends met at St. Boniface's, the Tenderloin Franciscan church where the gay Catholics have worshipped for more than five years. The church was packed—nearly 500 came for the final service. The officiating priest, an openly gay man, gave a beautiful homily on the need to love those who reject and harm us. Then quietly, with great dignity, he took off the vestments of his priesthood, put them on a table, and joined the congregation in the pews. There were few dry eyes in the church at that moment. I know mine weren't.

Until that moment, I had remained respectfully silent. The liturgy and music were beautiful and meaningful, but they were not the words and thoughts of my tradition and theology. But then the choir and congregation began to sing one of the great anthems of the civil rights movement, "Oh, Freedom!" and I joined in as lustily as anyone in the church.

The ceremony in the church concluded, and the congregation moved slowly out onto Golden Gate Avenue, singing, carrying lighted candles in the cool night air, marching toward the archbishop's cathedral for singing and silent vigil. One congregant carried a cross at the head of the procession, and another just behind carried a large wreath. In the center of the wreath was a pink triangle, the "badge of shame" the Nazis forced gays to wear in the camps. That night it was not a badge of shame, but a symbol of pride. Dignity may have left the church which meant so much to them (they will continue to worship at the Dolores Street Baptist Church) but they left with their heads high.

The lesson of both Sundays is that we still have a long way to go before we are free of prejudice. As long as a lesbian can be denied admission to rabbinical school because she is a lesbian, and a gay Catholic is denied the right to worship with a community of gay and lesbian Catholics, then none of us is free.

—Mike Rankin

UAHC News

AIDS Quilt in New Orleans

Delegates to the UAHC Biennial in New Orleans (November 2–6) will see a large selection of the Names Project Quilt, the beautiful memorial to those who have died of AIDS.

More importantly, those who attend the convention will be able to add other panels. At the request of the UAHC AIDS Committee, the Union has agreed to underwrite transportation costs for the quilt, and to pay expenses for a staff person from the Names Project to go to New Orleans. The staffer will have a booth and a table in the exhibition area of the hotel. Cloth and other materials will be available for delegates who want to make a panel for a loved one. Also, delegates will be asked to bring panels made by members of their congregations who are not attending the convention. At some public gathering during the convention—possibly at a memorial service—all of the panels will be given to the Names Project to be added to the quilt.

This will be a central focus of the AIDS education program offered by the AIDS Committee at the Biennial. There will also be several workshops and an additional booth in the exhibition area staffed by committee members to provide written materials and answer questions.

If a member of Sha'ar Zahav wants to create a panel, one of our delegates will take it to New Orleans. (We will also accept panels for CSZ members who have died of AIDS, whether or not the person who made it is a member of the congregation.)

For more information, please call Rabbi Kahn or me at the synagogue.

—Mike Rankin

Al Vorspan on Homophobia

Last fall, Warner Brothers produced a record by Sam Kinison which was filled with homophobic and AIDS-phobic lyrics. The UAHC AIDS Committee asked Al Vorspan, senior vice president of the Union, to urge Warner Brothers not to release the record. Vorspan sent a letter to the company president, M. Ostin. To date, he has not received a response.

January Va'ad Report

On Monday night, January 9, the Va'ad had one of its shorter but more productive meetings. As Rabbi Kahn was on vacation, Steven Greenberg gave the D'var Torah.

After a brief report by the treasurer, Ben Schalit, which indicated that our finances remain steady, Robin Leonard presented the Election Committee for Va'ad approval. Approved unanimously are Claudia Bernard, Aaron Cooper, Steve Greenberg, Mark Mackler, and Sharyn Saslafsky. Robin updated the Va'ad on the Pew Cushion Fund-Raising Project. The project is ready to go and a campaign publicizing it will be developed. A sample cushion will be made so people can see exactly what they are donating for and a plaque commemorating their donation will be affixed to the pew.

Robin reported that the Va'ad has been asked to take an official stand on failure of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith to include gay and lesbian concerns in their nationwide program on anti-prejudice. Other Jewish organization have refused to criticize this failure by B'nai Brith. The Va'ad asked the Social Action Committee to recommend a course of action and draft a resolution expressing our dismay at these failures.

Richard Inlander informed the Va'ad of Dignity's invitation to a meeting to draw up a response to the makeup of the mayor's San Francisco AIDS Committee. Dignity is especially upset over the appointment of Archbishop Quinn to the committee and the exclusion of other Catholics more sympathetic to gays and lesbians. Robin Leonard volunteered to attend. The Va'ad wanted to stress our sense of unity with other gay and lesbian religious organizations. But the Va'ad stipulated that it would have to be polled before any statement could be endorsed by the congregation.

The Membership Committee presented recommendations for six new members and they were unanimously approved by the Va'ad. This sparked a brief discussion on the need for more social programming. Several members of the Va'ad, including Don Albert, Bill Goldstein and Allan Berenstein, among others, commented on the decline in the number of CSZ social events. This decline in programming affects our outreach to new members as well as their

level of commitment. The Va'ad will continue this discussion in future meetings.

Mike Rankin presented the UAHC report and brought us up to date on the display of the AIDS quilt at the UAHC conference.

The meeting was then adjourned after an evaluation that stressed the relative ease with which Va'ad members were working together.

—Bill Goldstein

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss.

To the congregation on the loss of its member, G. Murray Miller.

To **Eric Keitel** on the loss of his mother, Shirley Keitel.

To the community on the loss of its friend, Ricky Sherover-Marcuse.

To **Ron Lezell** on the loss of his friend, Dorothy Gendall.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

3	David Gass
5	Ami Zusman
7	Mark Mendelow
7	Ida Joan Kuluk
8	Sue Saperstein
9	Mark Freeman
11	Robert Stern
12	Joan Lefkowitz
12	Barry Rosen
14	Susan Douglass
14	Ron Wolberg
14	Irene Ogus
14	Susan Unger
15	Russell Discher
17	Yael Silverberg-Willis
17	Barry D. Siegel
21	Sandra Lofchie
22	Gail Friedlander
23	Hal Heller
25	Earl Diskin
25	Alex Ingersoll
25	Aaron Frankel
27	Leila Raim
28	Joel A. Wasser
28	David Friedmann
28	Bruce F. Katz
28	Steven Gaynes

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Yahrzeits

1	Goldie Kornblit Lieberman, grandmother of Bea & Debbie Lieberman
2	Eleanor Pranke, grandmother of Dan Bellm
3	Leon Childress, father of Joyce Amburgey
4	(29 Shevat) Catherine Albert, grandmother of Don Albert
4	Bette Friedman, mother of Jeff Friedman
4	(29 Shevat) Emilie Nacamulli, mother of Steven & Bob Nacamulli
10	Mildred Schoenberg, grandmother of Johanna Johnson
11	(6 Adar) Max Raim, father of Leila Raim
11	Marilyn Levine Epstein, sister of Nancy Epstein
14	Barbara Rosenblum, lover of Sandra Butler & member CSZ
14	Anne Herman Shapiro, mother of Marilyn Braiger
14	Gary Starliper, lover of Rick Crane
14	Jacob Weiss, grandfather of Lonnie Weiss
15	Allan Ellis, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and lover of Edward Pollock
15	Ben Shuchat, grandfather of David Stein
15	Yetta Shuchat, grandmother of David Stein
19	Ruben Levinson, uncle of Lonnie Weiss
21	Steven Richter, member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
21	(16 Adar) Mollie Podgur, mother of Hal Podgur
21	(16 Adar) Joseph M. Cohen, father of Paul Cohen
22	(17 Adar) Helen Pechter, mother of Bernard Pechter
22	(17 Adar) Sam Schwartz, father of Paul Schwartz
22	Birdie Fay Raff, grandmother of Ellen Peskin
23	Asher Liberman, father of Shirley Liberman
23	(18 Adar) Antol Szekely, grandfather of Marilyn Kalman
27	Gertrude Liberman, mother of Shirley Liberman
28	Samuel Dreskin, father-in-law of Barry Siegel

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

AIDS Fund

Harold Parker
Sam Tucker
Betty Kalis, in memory of Sherman Kalis
Dr. Martin H. Greenberg

Bikkur Cholim Fund

June and Bernard Heitman, in appreciation of the generous hospitality of Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman
Mrs. Pauline Stein

Building Fund

Harold Parker

General Fund

Richard Inlander, in honor of Eric Keitel
Shelley P. Avery
Perry Paker, in memory of Meyer Paker
Neil Hart, in memory of Lottie Goldinger and Anna Hart
Allan Berenstein, in memory of his grandfather, A.J. Berenstein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Shelley Montgomery, in honor of the continuing recovery of Cheryl Price
Marjorie Hilsenrad, in honor of Diane Spagh

Torah Fund

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in memory of Fay Eidelsberg
Sherie A. Koshover, in memory of Carol's father, Cyril S. Roseman
Steve Greenberg, in memory of Eileen Dunn's father, Abraham Dunn

High Holiday Contributions

Marsha Blachman
Adam Block
Neil Grungras
Ronald Miguel
Jeffrey S. Miller
Sally Miller and Peg Keranen
Debbie Salomon
Cathy Steirn

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Robin Leonard
Vice President, Eric Keitel
Treasurer, Ben Schalit
Acting Recorder, Bill Goldstein

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Don Albert
 Allan Berenstein
 Tiela Chalmers
 Steve Greenberg
 Merry Luskin
 Jose Luis Moscovich
 Alita Rosenfeld
 Jonathan Schwartz
 Dana Vinicoff
 Richard Inlander (ex officio)

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, Ken Burke
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Cookbook Project, Sanford Friedman
Dinner Chavurah, Jerry Hipps
Education, by committee
Finance, Don Albert
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers & Daniel Chesir
Membership, Merry Luskin
Newsletter, Howard Blechman & Alita Rosenfeld
Oneg, Bill Ashley-Dobbin
Past Presidents Council, Leila Raim
Personnel, Irene Ogus
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky & Andy Zimmerman

Religious School, David Gellman & Ida Kuluk
Ritual, Steve Greenberg; assistant, Ora Prochovnick
Social Action, Jonathan Mesinger
Social Program, by committee
Spirituality Chavurah, Larry Wexler
Women's Chavurah, Ann Biderman

Office Personnel:

Manager, Jenny Helbraun
Secretary, Leticia Montealegre

Office Hours: Mon. 9-5; Tue. 1-5; Wed. 10-6; Thu. 9-5; Fri. 11-5.


Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am — check calendar for each month.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Liaison) and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Ora Prochovnick, Liaison).

DR. DIANE SABIN
3892—24TH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO
CA 94114
415/826-8300



CHIROPRACTIC

FEBRUARY

שבט-אדר

1 Wednesday
26 Shevat

2 Thursday
27 Shevat

- 7:30pm, Long-Range Planning Meeting

3 Friday
28 Shevat

Parshat Mishpatim
Mevarchim Chodesh Adar I

- 8:15pm, Services, Leila Raim and Mike Rankin with the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble

4 Saturday
29 Shevat

- 9:30am, Kadimah

5 Sunday
30 Shevat

- 3pm, Fireside Chat with the president and vice-president, 346 Euclid Ave., San Francisco

6 Monday
1 Adar I

- 7:30pm, Education Committee

7 Tuesday
2 Adar I

8 Wednesday
3 Adar I

- 11:30am, Soviet Vigil, Green and Baker streets

9 Thursday
4 Adar I

10 Friday
5 Adar I

Parshat Terumah

- 6:15pm, Children's Chavurah Dinner
- 7:30pm, Children's Service, Daniel Chesir and Nancy Snow
- 8:15pm, Late Service, special Shabbat honoring new members of 1988, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Henry Mach, and Dana Vinicoff

11 Saturday
6 Adar I

- Ritual Committee Shabbaton—all-day meeting
- 4pm, Liturgy for Healing Service

12 Sunday
7 Adar I

Lincoln's Birthday

- 12pm, Relationships Program
- 4pm, Ensemble

13 Monday
8 Adar I

- 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting

14 Tuesday
9 Adar I

Valentine's Day

15 Wednesday
10 Adar I

- 7pm, Ritual Committee mailing party
- 7:30pm, Jewish/Christian Education Program
- 7:15pm, Newsletter editing, 3676 17th St.

16 Thursday
11 Adar I

- 7pm, Building Committee
- 7:30pm, Social Action
- 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim

17 Friday
12 Adar I

Parshat Tetzaveh

- 8:15pm, Services, Henry Mach

18 Saturday
13 Adar I

19 Sunday
14 Adar I

20 Monday
15 Adar I

Presidents' Day

21 Tuesday
16 Adar I

22 Wednesday
17 Adar I

Washington's Birthday

- 7:30pm, Jewish/Christian Education Program

23 Thursday
18 Adar I

- 6:30pm, Ritual Committee

24 Friday
19 Adar I

Parshat Ki Tisa

- 8:15pm, Torah Service, Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Rabbi Charisse Kranes
- UAHC Regional Biennial

25 Saturday
20 Adar I

- 9:30am, Kadimah
- 10:30am, Morning Service, Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Daniel Chesir
- UAHC Regional Biennial

26 Sunday
21 Adar I

- 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch, Kaiser Hospital, San Francisco
- 4pm, Ensemble
- UAHC Regional Biennial

27 Monday
22 Adar I

- 7:30pm, Education Committee

28 Tuesday
23 Adar I

2 Thursday, March 2, 25 Adar I

- 7pm, Newsletter mailing, 11 Grandview Terrace

3 Friday, March 3, 26 Adar I

Parshat Vayakhel, Shabbat Shekalim Mevarchim Chodesh Adar II, 8:15pm, Services, Mike Rankin with the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV -- BIKKUR CHOLIM COMMITTEE

Dear Member,

Bikkur Cholim is concerned with our own ill and bereaved and participates in the work of other agencies in the Jewish and Gay/Lesbian communities. By filling out this interest survey, you can help us update information on our congregational resources. Your responses do guide the level of our involvement in these mitzvot. Thank you.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Paul Cohen, Chair

(PLEASE MARK ALL RESPONSES THAT APPLY. FEEL FREE TO ADD COMMENTS.)

1. In which of the following activities would you participate?

A. Directly helping an ill person-	Yes...()
cooking a meal-	Yes...()
shopping-	Yes...()
running errands-	Yes...()
escorting to appointments-	Yes...()
bringing to services-	Yes...()

B. Visiting an ill member at home-	Yes...()
in the hospital-	Yes...()

C. Helping a visiting relative -	Yes...()
----------------------------------	-----------

D. Periodic visits to the elderly-	Yes...()
------------------------------------	-----------

E. Participating in brunch program-	Yes...()
-------------------------------------	-----------

2. Do you have a car available?	Yes...()
	No....()

3. Which neighborhood or county is your preference? _____

4. How often can we call upon you?
Once a week..... Once a month..... As needed.....

5. Do you have any special support skills? Please list: _____

6. Do you speak any foreign languages? Please list: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

PLEASE FOLD AND MAIL BACK -- OR DROP OFF AT SYNAGOGUE.

